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GROUP

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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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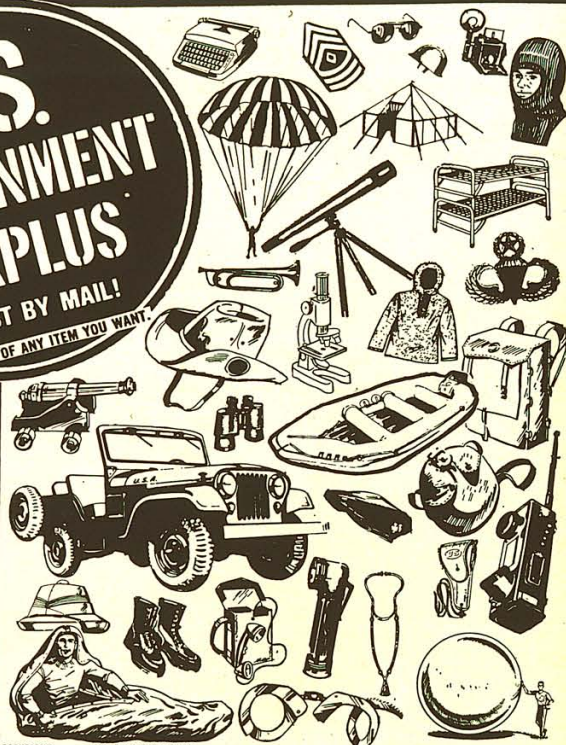
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BATTLES!



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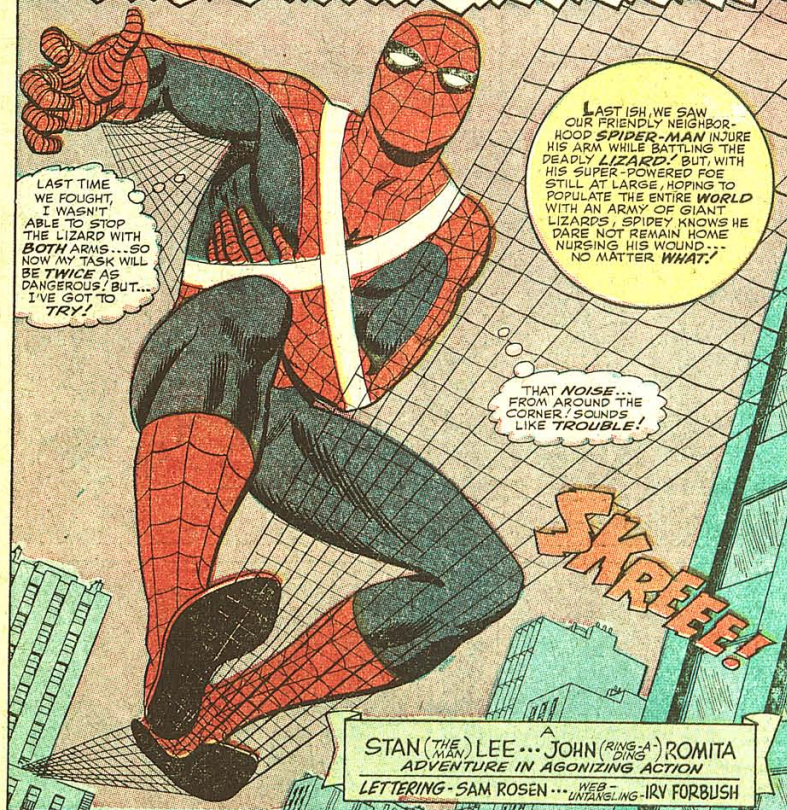
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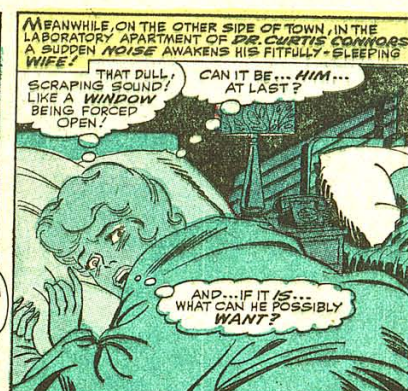
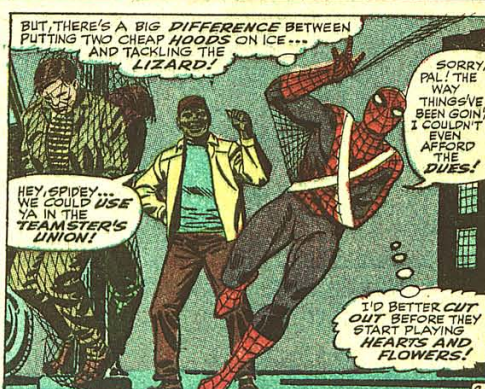
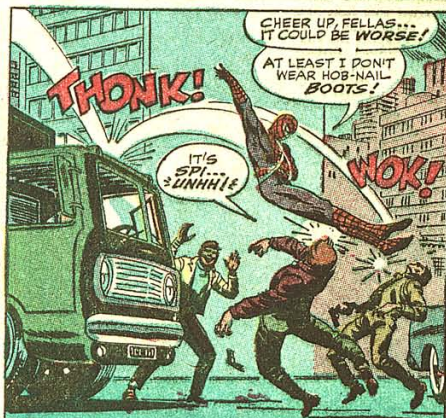
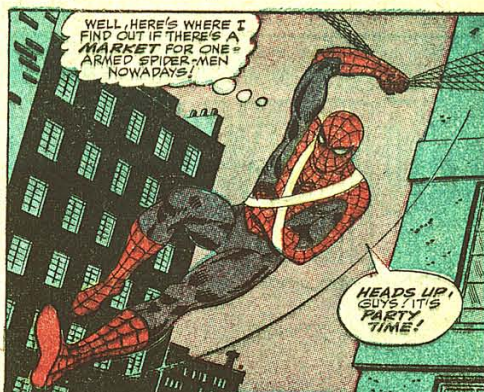
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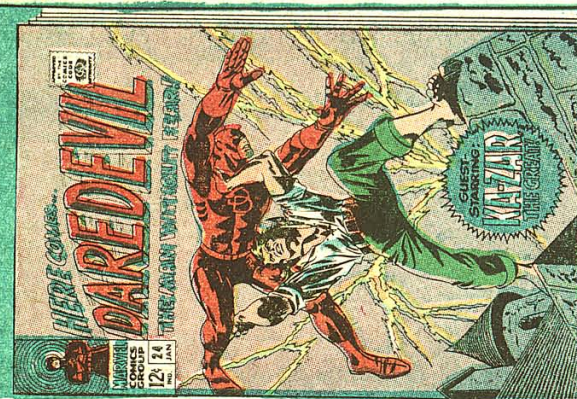
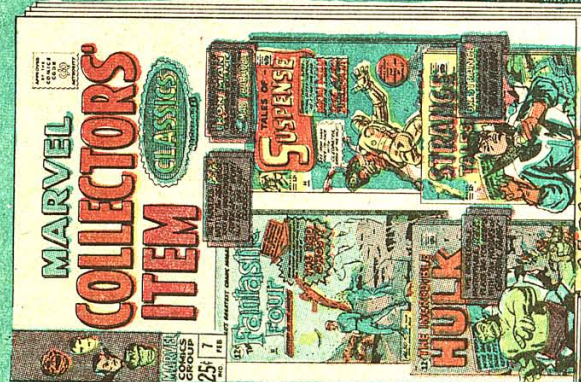
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see through walls

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THE NEXT MORNING, AT THE OFFICE OF THE DAILY BUGLE, WE FIND...

THINGS ARE PRETTY SLOW RIGHT NOW... SO THIS IS MY CHANCE TO ASSUME THE IDENTITY OF PATCH, THE UNDERWORLD INFORMER, AND KEEP MY EYE ON PETER PARKER!

I'VE GOT TO LEARN HOW HE MANAGES TO GET SO MANY EXCLUSIVE PHOTOS OF SPIDER-MAN!

WHERE IN BLUE BLAZES DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?

I'M NOT RUNNING! A BLASTED TRAVEL AGENCY AROUND HERE!

THE NEXT MORNING, AT THE OFFICE OF THE DAILY BUGLE, WE FIND...

THAT SINKS IT! THE WHOLE WORLD IS AGAINST ME!

I WORK MY FINGERS TO THE BONE, KEEPING THIS NEWSPAPER TOGETHER... JUST TO PROVIDE JOBS FOR EVERYONE... AND THAT'S THE THANKS I GET FOR IT!

IT'S LIKE I ALWAYS SAY... EVERYONE TAKES ADVANTAGE OF ME BECAUSE I'M TOO SOFT HEARTED!

THE OLD HYPOCRITE! HE MEANS SOFT HEADED!

HUSH, PARKER! WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BE FIRED NOW... BEFORE PETER OUR WEDDING PARKER...

NOW BACK TO OUR LIST... I'LL HAVE TO GRAB A BUS THIS MORNING! CAN'T USE MY WHEELS WITH ONLY ONE HAND!

BOY, MARY JANE WILL FLIP WHEN SHE SEES HOW ZINGY IT LOOKS SINCE I PAINTED IT THAT ONE CLICKIN' RED!

JUST MY LUCK! THE FIRST JOKER RUN INTO HAS TO BE ELIAS THOMPSON!

OH WELL...

IF HE IS, HE'S SURE DOING IT THE HARD WAY!

WHATCHA TRYIN' TO DO, USELESS...? MAKE US THINK YOU'RE SPIDER-MAN?

WHEN I WENT EASIER THAN I EXPECTED, I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THEY'D NEVER LINK ME WITH SPIDEY!

I JUST THOUGHT I'D MOSEY AROUND TOWN, MR. JAMESON, AND SEE IF I COULD PICK UP SOME LEADS ON A NEW STORY!

FORGET IT, MISTER! THE LIZARD WAS SIGHTED LAST NIGHT! SEE WHAT YOU CAN DIG UP ABOUT HIM!

WELL, THAT TAKES CARE OF THAT! I'LL HAVE TO PUT OFF TAILING PARKER TILL SOME OTHER TIME!

DON'T JUST STARE HERE! GET GOING!

BUT, AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME, MISTER PARKER HAS OTHER, LESS ROMANTIC MATTERS TO CONCERN HIM...

I'VE PROVEN THAT I CAN HANDLE MYSELF IN A FIGHT... EVEN WITH ONE ARM... BUT NOW I'VE GOT ANOTHER PROBLEM...

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT SPIDER-MAN HAS AN INJURED LEFT ARM...

SO WHAT'LL HAPPEN WHEN PETER PARKER IS SEEN AROUND TOWN ALSO SPORTING HIS WING IN A SLING?

MAYBE I CAN FAKE IT, BY KEEPING MY HAND IN MY POCK... OWH!

NO... IT'S TOO PAINFUL!

LATER, AT THE CAMPUS OF GOOD OL' E.S.U....

WILL YA LOOK AT THAT, HARRY! IT'S PUNY PARKER, WITH HIS ARM IN A SLING!

AWW, DON'T BE ANGRY, GUY! I'VE FIGURED THAT OUT! THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED!

THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR RIDING THAT THING, SON! A CHARACTER LIKE YOU BELONGS ON A TRICYCLE!

VER-RY FUNNY, GUY! I'VE ALMOST AS FUNNY AS SPRAINING YOUR ARM WHILE DRIVING A CYCLE!

WHEN I WENT EASIER THAN I EXPECTED, I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THEY'D NEVER LINK ME WITH SPIDEY!

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WHAT'S WITH YOU TWO, AGAIN?? HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU TO MAKE YOUR BLANDED WEDDING PLANS ON YOUR OWN TIME??

SORRY, J.J. BUT IT WAS BETTER'S COFFEE BREAK, SO WE THOUGHT...

I'LL DO THE THINKING HERE, DOESN'T ANYONE DO A FULL DAY'S WORK ANY MORE?

BUT, IT'S NED'S COFFEE BREAK, ALSO!

THE HECK WITH IT! A FELLA HAS TO TAKE SOME CHANCES! I'LL JUST BLUFF MY WAY THROUGH!

WHY SHOULD ANYONE TRY TO CONNECT ME WITH SPIDEY? I COULD HAVE HURT MY ARM ON MY CYCLE!

THAT'S THE EXCUSE I'LL USE!

ANYTHING'S BETTER THAN HIDING INDOORS LIKE A COWARD!

WHEN I WENT EASIER THAN I EXPECTED, I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THEY'D NEVER LINK ME WITH SPIDEY!

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SEE YA AROUND, GUYS! I'M GONNA GRAB A CUP OF JAVA WITH GWEN!

SPEAKING OF GWEN, PETE... SHE'S THROWING A PARTY FOR FLASH WHEN HE GETS HIS INDUCTION NOTICE. SHE ASKED ME TO INVITE YOU!

SURE, I'LL BE GLAD TO COME! FLASH ISN'T REALLY AS BAD AS HE SOUNDS!

BUT, TELL ME SOMETHING, HARRY...



HOW COME GWEN DIDN'T ASK ME HERSELF?

LET'S FACE IT, SON... YOU HAVEN'T BEEN AROUND THAT MUCH SINCE MARY JANE MADE THE SCENE!

OH... I-I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT!



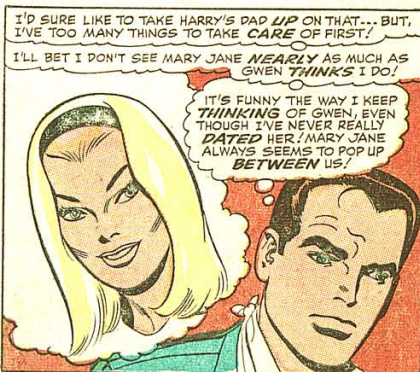
BUT, IT'S NOT JUST MARY JANE'S FAULT... SENDING MY AUNT MAY AWAY FOR A VACATION TOOK ALL THE MONEY I HAD... AND I'VE BEEN KEEPING KINDA BUSY TRYING TO SELL JANESON SOME NEW PIR.

I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THAT, PETE.

MY DAD'S A CHEMIST, AND HE CAN USE A BRAINY SCIENCE MAJOR AS A PART-TIME HELPER!

THAT'S PARN NICE OF YOU, HARRY! I'LL REALLY THINK ABOUT IT!

NO RUSH, FELT WHENEVER YOU'RE READY, SAY THE WORD!



I'D SURE LIKE TO TAKE HARRY'S DAD UP ON THAT... BUT, I'VE TOO MANY THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF FIRST!

I'LL BET I DON'T SEE MARY JANE NEARLY AS MUCH AS GWEN THINKS I DO!

IT'S FUNNY THE WAY I KEEP THINKING OF GWEN, EVEN THOUGH I'VE NEVER REALLY DATED HER. MARY JANE ALWAYS SEEMS TO POP UP BETWEEN US!



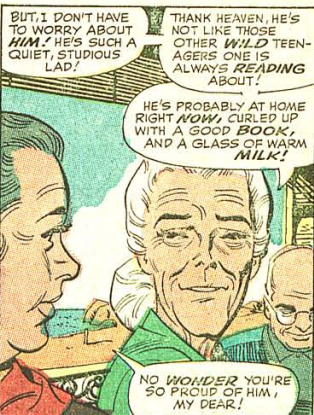
MEANWHILE, AT A QUIET SEASHORE RESORT, WE FIND THE OTHER FEMALE IN PETER PARKER'S LIFE, RECOVERING FROM HER RECENT ILLNESS...

YOU'RE FROM NEW YORK CITY, AREN'T YOU, MRS. PARKER?

IT MUST BE TERRIBLE LIVING THERE WITH CREATURES LIKE THE LIZARD STILL AT LARGE!

OH DEAR! MY NEPHEW, PETER, IS THERE RIGHT NOW. HE'S A FRESHMAN AT E.S.U.!

DAILY BUGLE
LIZARD MENACES NEW YORK

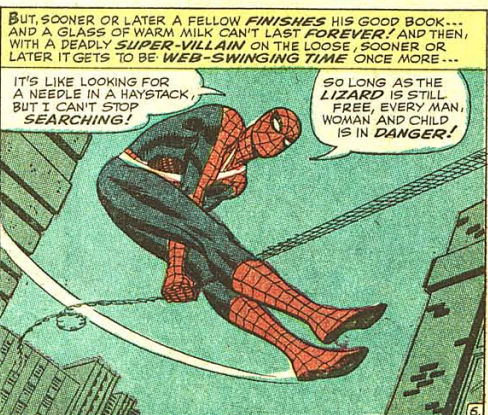


BUT, I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIM. HE'S SUCH A QUIET, STUDIOUS LAD!

THANK HEAVEN, HE'S NOT LIKE THOSE OTHER WILD TEEN-AGERS ONE IS ALWAYS READING ABOUT!

HE'S PROBABLY AT HOME RIGHT NOW, CURLED UP WITH A GOOD BOOK, AND A GLASS OF WARM MILK!

NO WONDER YOU'RE SO PROUD OF HIM, MY DEAR!



BUT SOONER OR LATER A FELLOW FINISHES HIS GOOD BOOK... AND A GLASS OF WARM MILK CAN'T LAST FOREVER! AND THEN, WITH A DEADLY SUPER-VILLAIN ON THE LOOSE, SOONER OR LATER IT GETS TO BE WEB-SWINGING TIME ONCE MORE...

IT'S LIKE LOOKING FOR A NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK, BUT I CAN'T STOP SEARCHING!

SO LONG AS THE LIZARD IS STILL FREE, EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD IS IN DANGER!



I DON'T HAVE TO ACTUALLY SIGHT HIM...

...IF I MANAGE TO GET ANYWHERE NEAR HIM, MY SPIDER-SENSE IS SURE TO TINGLE!



BUT AS THE LONG WEARISOME HOURS OF SEARCHING WEAR ON...

I'VE COVERED EVERY TYPE OF PLACE THE LIZARD WOULD HIDE UP IN...

...BUT, STILL NOT A TRACE OF HIM!



FINALLY...

IT'S A LONG SHOT, BUT I'D BETTER NOT OVERLOOK THE ZOO!



THIS WAS MY LAST HOPE, BUT HE'S NOT HERE, EITHER!

I SHOULD HAVE FIGURED THERE WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH LIZARDS IN HERE TO MAKE IT WORTH HIS WHILE!

HE WANTS TO TAKE COMMAND OF THOUSANDS OF THEM!

HOUSE OF REPTILES

BUT, WAIT! WHAT'S THAT SIGN?



OF COURSE! THAT MUST BE WHAT KEPT HIM IN TOWN!

THE TRAIN FOR PHILLY LEAVES IN AN HOUR! IF I HURRY... I CAN STILL MAKE IT!

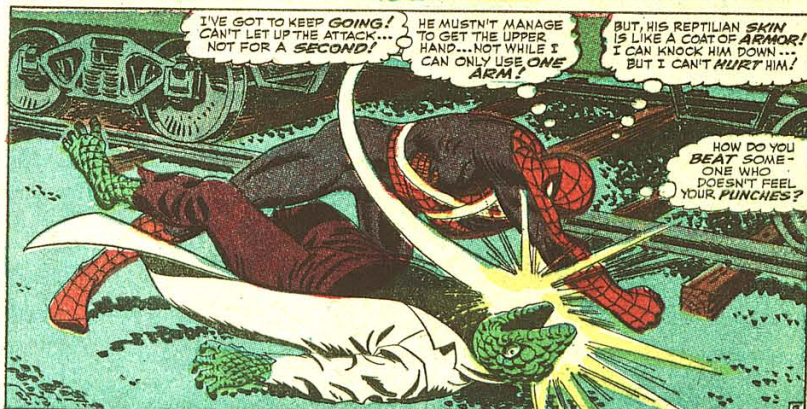
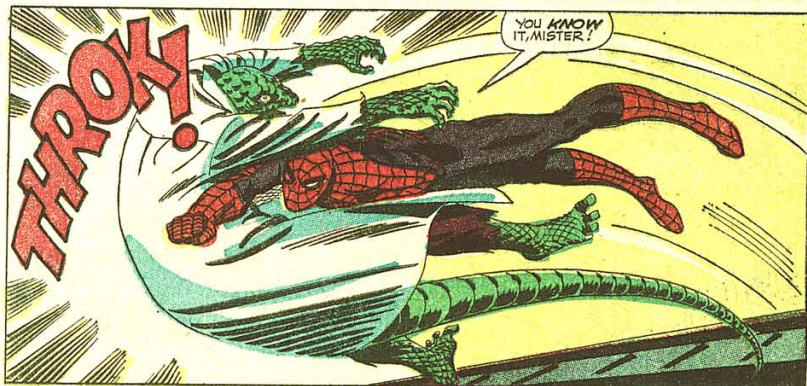
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THEN, EXACTLY FORTY-THREE MINUTES LATER...

MY SPIDER-SENSE IS TINGLING! I'VE FOUND HIM!

I MIGHT HAVE BEEN LUCKY IF I DIDN'T... BUT I CAN'T TURN BACK NOW!



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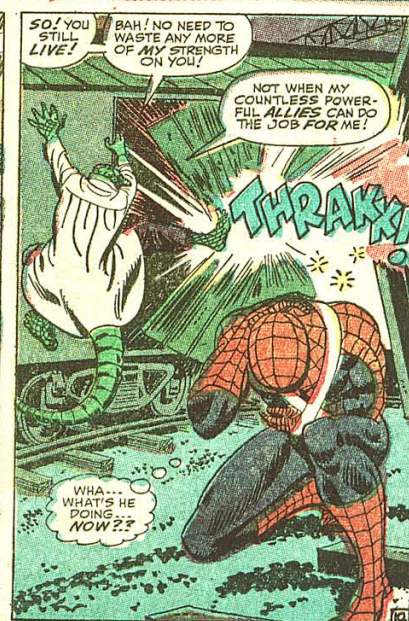
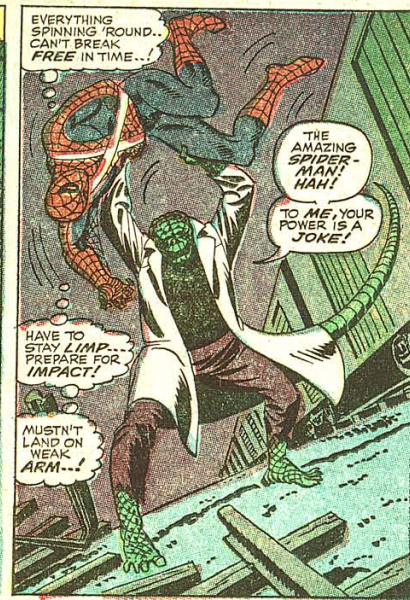
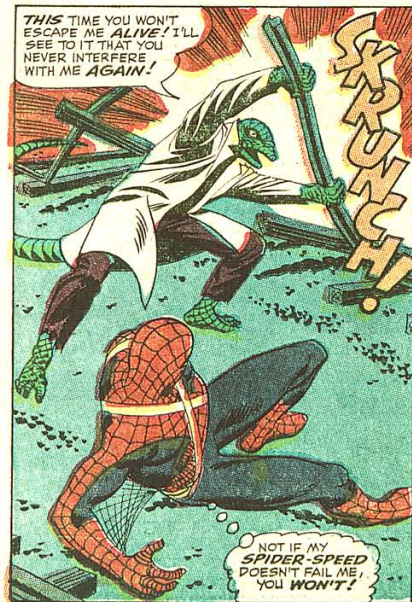
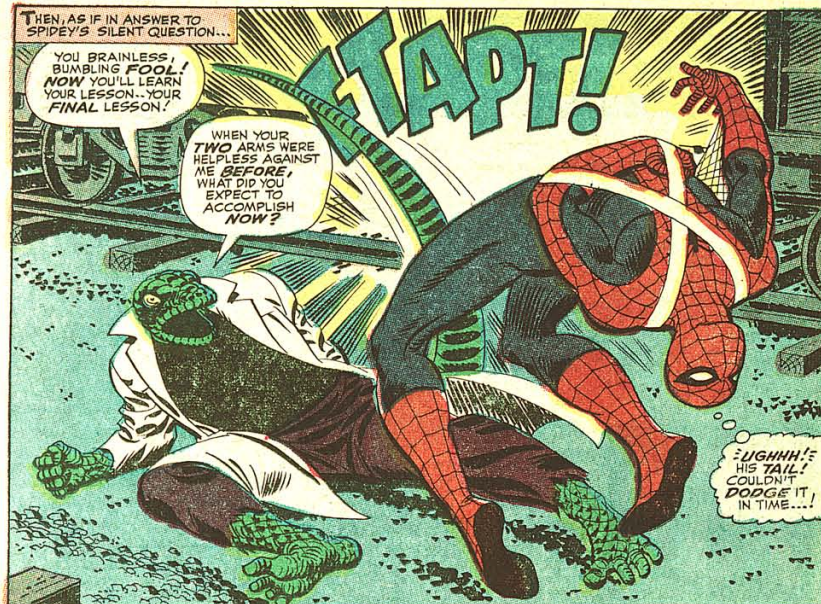
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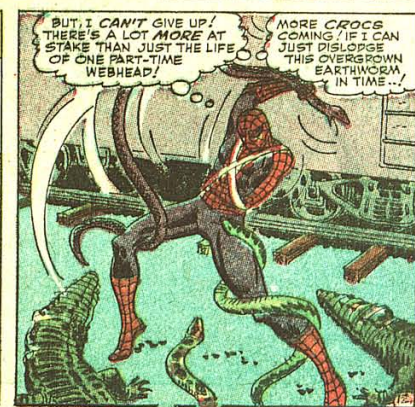
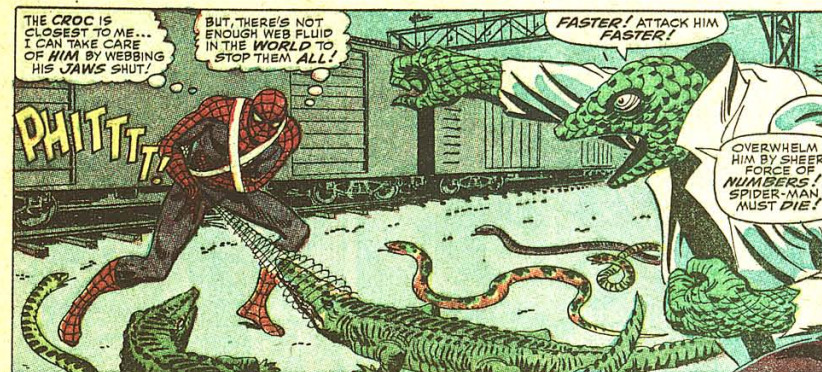
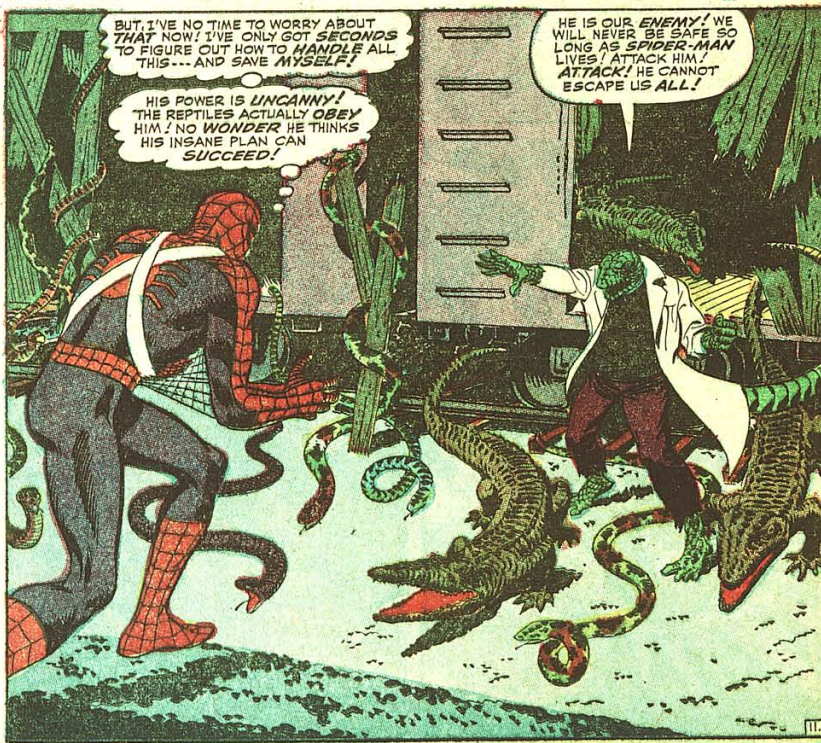
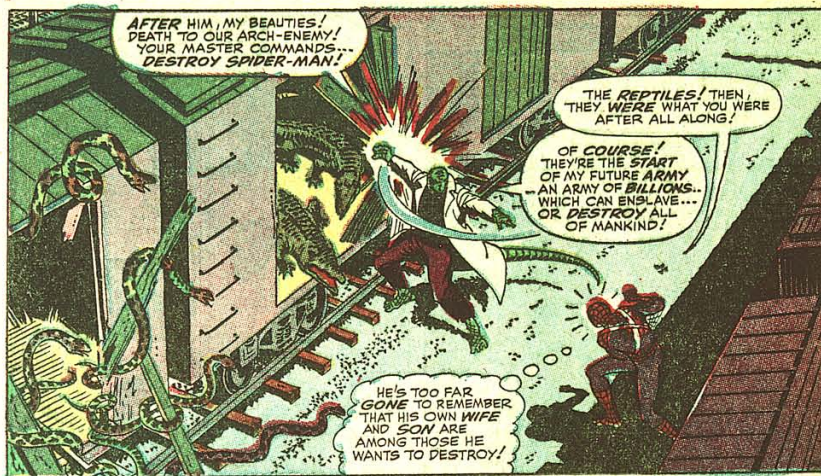
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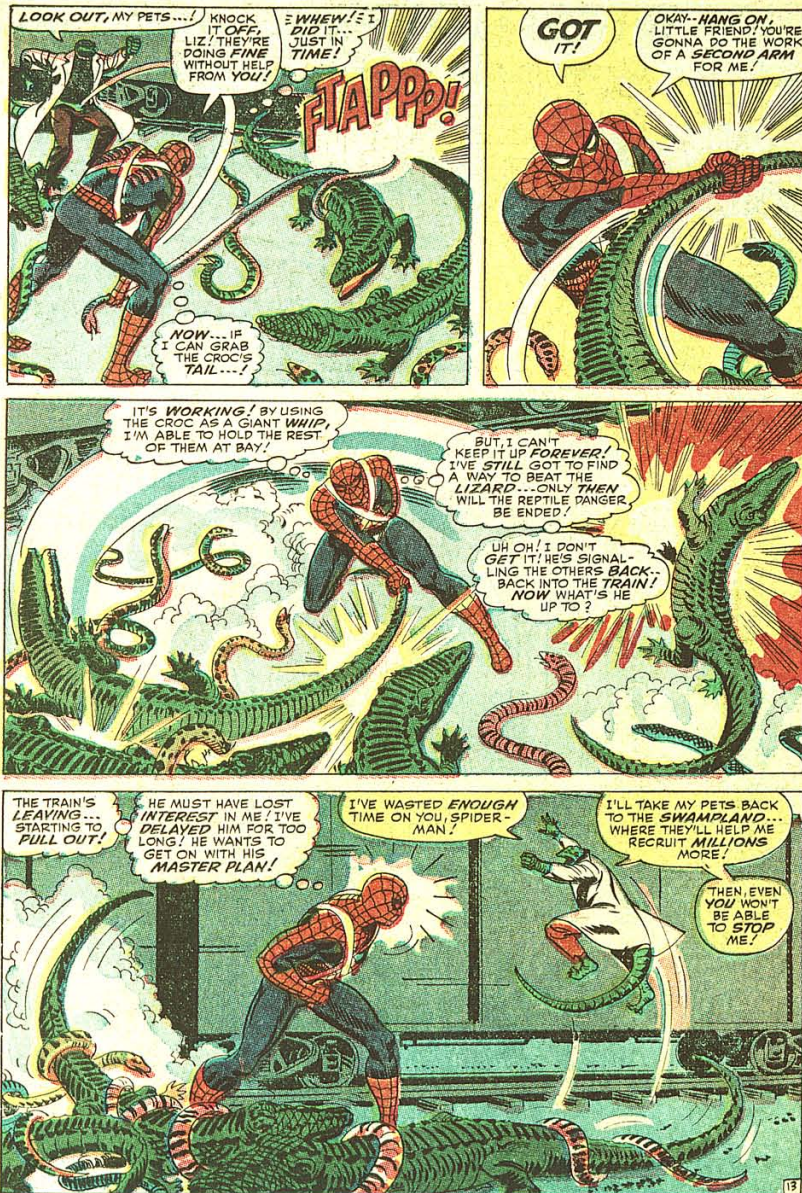
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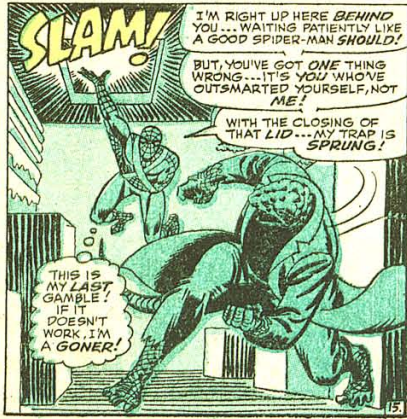
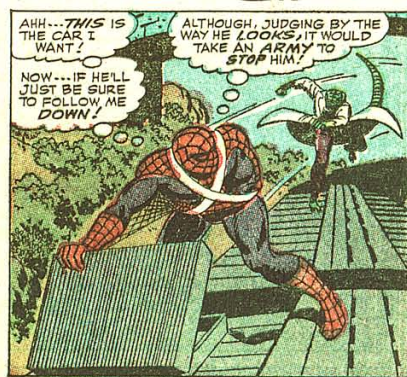
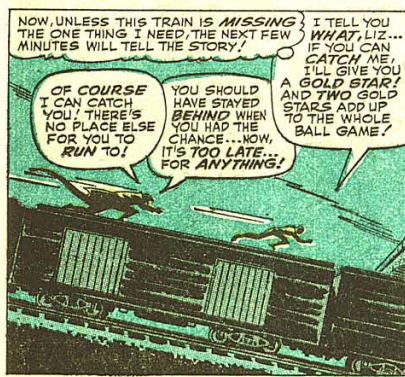
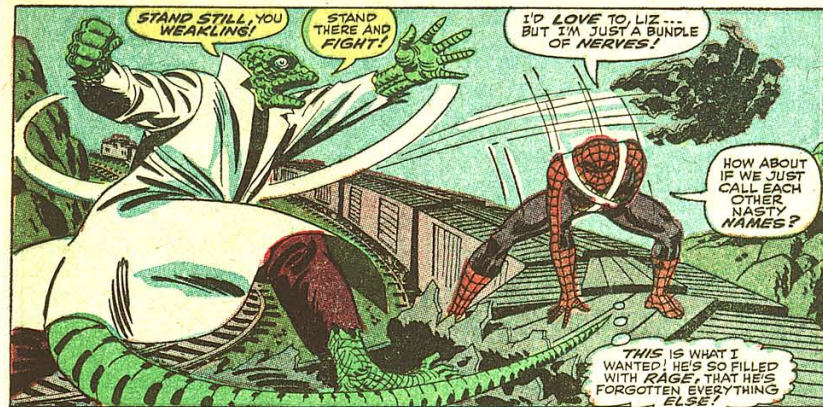
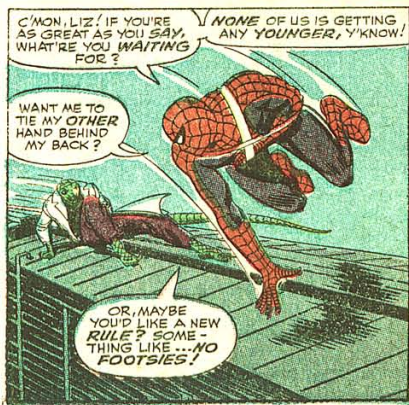
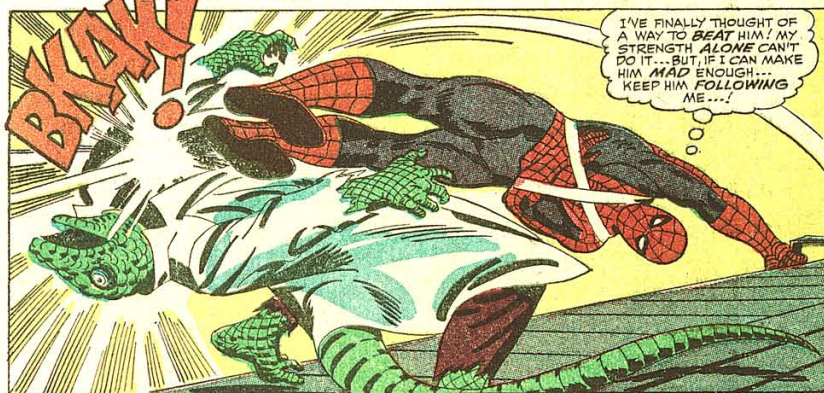
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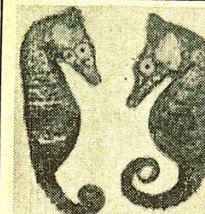
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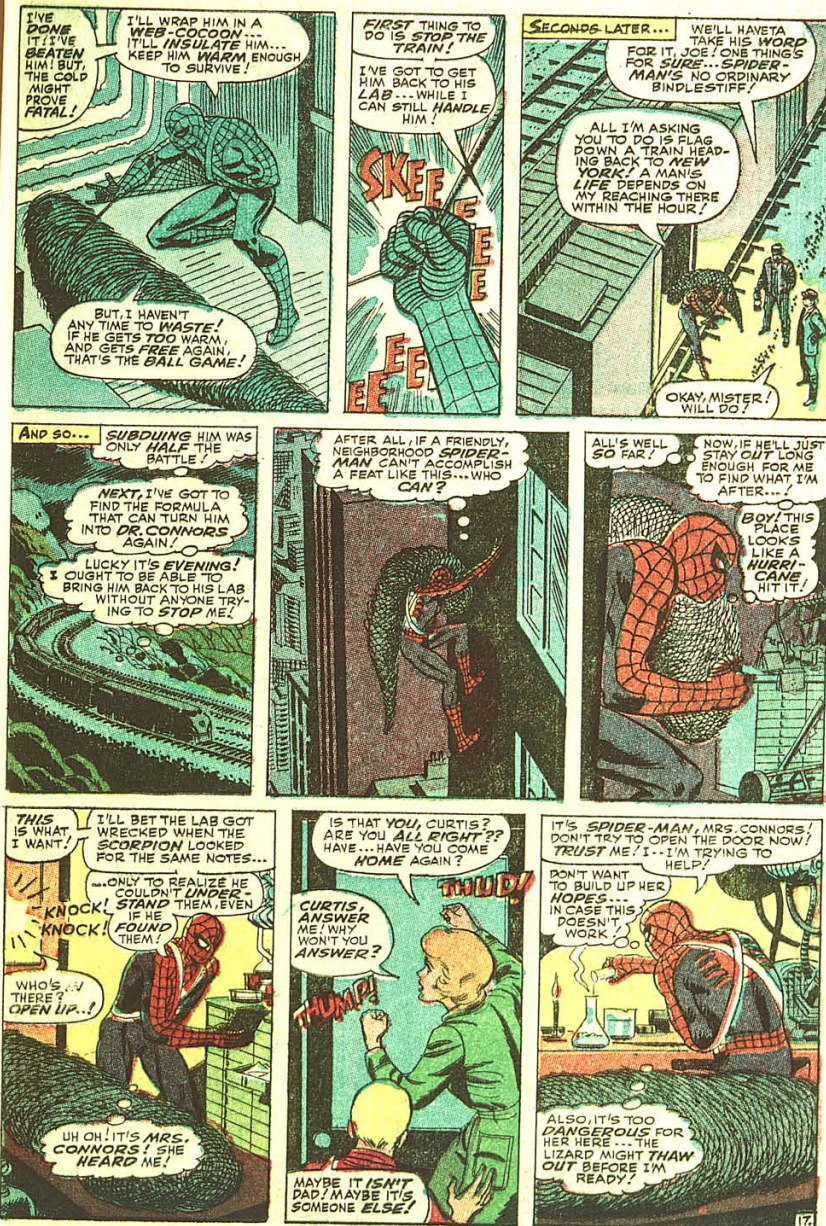
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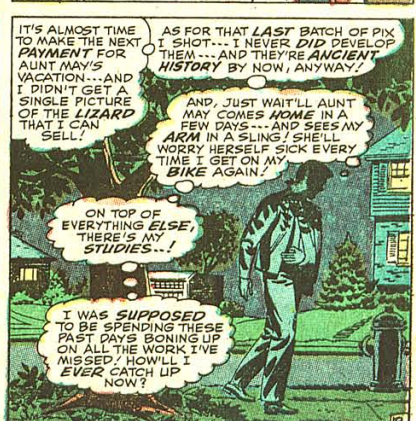
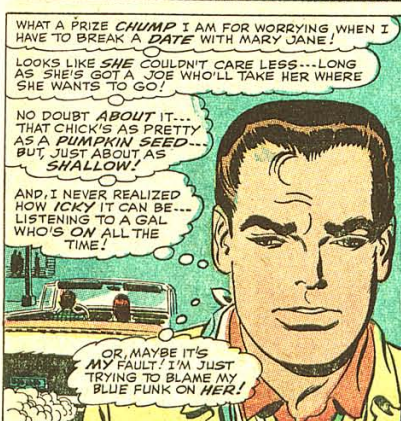
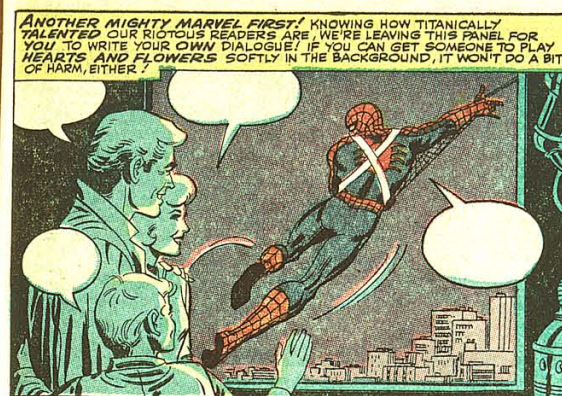
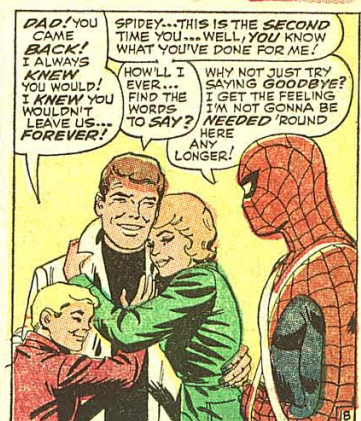
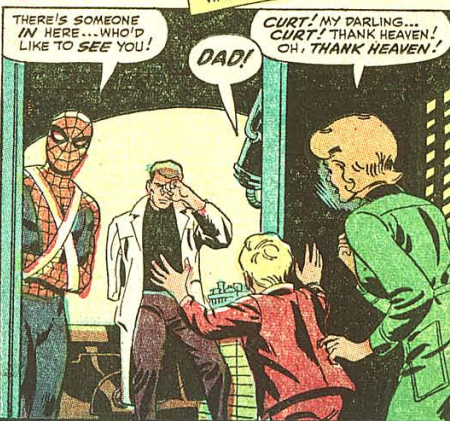
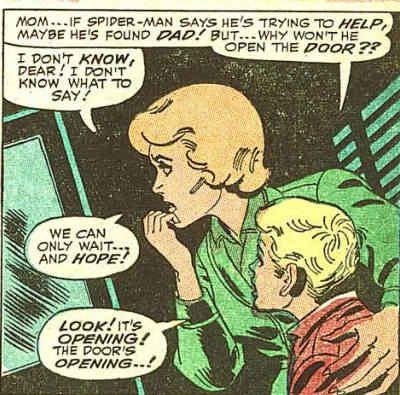
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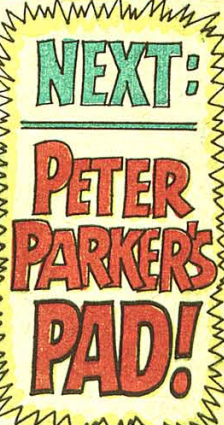
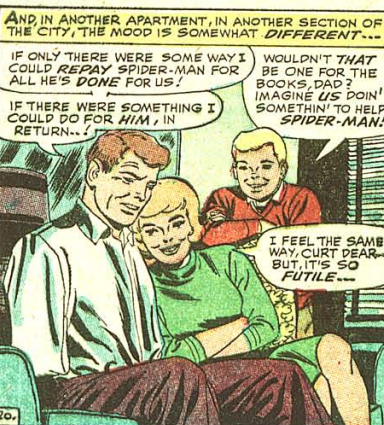
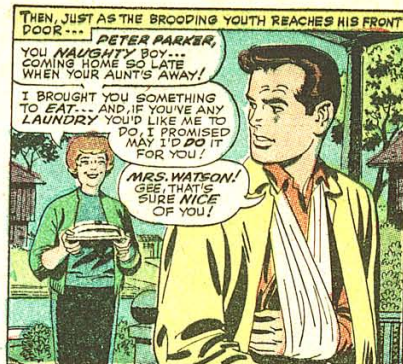
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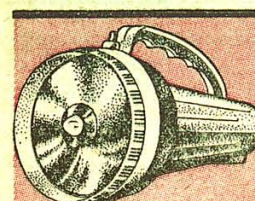
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ITEM: Before we do another thing, we've gotta give a mighty Marvel vote of thanks to the famous serviceman's newspaper, Stars and Stripes, for the terrific write-up they gave our mags just a few ishes ago! We've received enthusiastic letters of comment about it from G.I.'s all over the world, and no wonder, considering that Stars and Stripes had this thing for the terrific write-up they gave our mags just a few ishes ago! We've received enthusiastic letters of comment about it from G.I.'s all over the world, and no wonder, considering that Stars and Stripes had this thing for the terrific write-up they gave our mags just a few ishes ago! We've received enthusiastic letters of comment about it from G.I.'s all over the world, and no wonder, considering that Stars and Stripes had this thing for the terrific write-up they gave our mags just a few ishes ago!

ITEM: We get letters each day complaining about the difficulty of finding Marvel mags in some areas. The best way to prevent this unspeakable tragedy is to tell your dealer that he should be sure to display the Marvel titles up front. We're not trying to get you to shell out, but unfortunately some dealers haven't yet realized the difference between Marvels and ordinary comics — and only you, O Keeper of the Faith, can remedy that situation by telling your dealer know that we're taking over the world — together!

ITEM: We never thought we'd say anything like this to you — because you know how greedy we are — but for the love of Aunt Petunia, don't send us your nickels, dimes, quarters, or postage stamps for our rings, mini-books, plastic figures, bubble gum cards, toys, or any of that jazz! We don't have any here at the Bullpen — honest! We're not the ones who sell those items — the manufacturers themselves do that! So, watch for all our Marvel goodies at your local stores and spare the gang in the Bullpen from having to lick a zillion stamps daily! Okay?

ITEM: It's time for another of our extravagant explanations! Practically every Marvelite in captivity has written to ask why we printed a TV ad a month or so ago which featured another company's character. Some of the letters were cute as all get-out, describing us as turncoats, traitors, defectors, or just plain weak-minded! Perhaps it was a startling sight to see a rival super-hero staring at you from the pages of one of our own publications! But, the explanation is really kind a simple. We most sincerely believe in the theory of a free press. We also believe that honest competition is healthy for everybody concerned. So, if a competitor wants to pay us his own good money in order to buy an ad in one of our mags, we're delighted. Actually, we consider it a great compliment to us — for it proves that no matter how they may hate to admit it, even they are willing to pay a bundle just to appear

in a Marvel mag! (Say! Do you think they'd accept an ad of one of our mags in a book of theirs? It sure would be fun to find out!)

ITEM: Have we told you yet about the big COMICS FAN CONVENTION held in midtown Manhattan at the end of July? The guest of honor was none other than Jack Kirby, who gave a short, enthusiastically-received speech to his many fans, and then answered a whole kaboodle of questions from everyone in sight. A few weeks later, at another Comics Con, practically the whole Marvel Bullpen was in attendance. Smilin' Stan talked and talked and talked — and talked — for hours, in his usual capriciously confusing manner, while Rascally Roy, Fabulous Flo, Jazzy Johnny, Wild Bill, Jauntly Jim, Mirthful Marie, Rambunctious Ron, Dandy Danny, Litterin' Larry, and Merry Morrie did their brilliant bit to spread the word of Marvel-doom through the awed assemblage. Our thanks to Dave Kaler, John Benson, and the many, many frantic fans whose heartwarming hospitality and good humor helped to make the occasion a truly memorable one for us all!

ITEM: Before next month's mags go to the printer, we should start receiving your cogent comments concerning our Marvel Super-Heroes TV Spectaculars! So, watch this space, as well as our various letters pages, for a detailed summing-up of the pros and cons of Marvel's first venture into what we laughingly refer to as — Show Biz! We have a hunch it'll be fun to compare notes. And remember — every one of your true believers is an official Marvel Critic-at-Large! We have spoken!



THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #59: We call it "Doomsday!" You'll call it possibly the greatest F.F. spectacular of them all featuring Dr.

Doom — the Silver Surfer — the Inhumans — and maybe we can squeeze the F.F. themselves into a few pages! It's a blast, dad!

AVENGERS #36: No card-carrying Merry Marcher would dare miss the exciting, rapturously-requested return of Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch. And, just for good measure, we tossed in one of the most mind-staggering melees ever! You've been warned, pussycat!

X-MEN #28: We hadda do it! At long-awaited last, the X-Men face a brand new mutant menace whose super-power is... the Wall of the Banshee! Also, wait'll you get a peek at the overwhelming, unspeakable Ogre!

DAREDEVIL #24: In answer to a zillion requests, we have another nutty, nail-biting mystery for you! And, just to make it extra-special, it features the return of a lightning-mad Ka-Zar — plus, the most serious threat yet to Matt's secret identity! A sizzler!

THOR #136: The big one, at last! Odin decides to make Jane Foster an immortal, so that she and the Thunder God can be married! But, it leads to one of the most unusual, unsuspected problems of all! We kid thee not!

STRANGE TALES #153: Nick Fury stars in one of the most hair-raising auto chases since the Perils of Pauline, as Hydra strikes again — while Dr. Strange attacks an army of Mindless Ones, single-handed, to save a helpless girl!

SUSPENSE #86: You've never seen Iron Man stronger — more supremely powerful — than now, when he battles the menacing Mandarin to a fateful finish! Meanwhile, Captain America invades an enemy stronghold to learn the secret of the dreaded Z-Ray!

ASTONISH #88: The surprise sensation of the season! Mighty Prince Namor faces a menace from outer space — and the evil Attuma, as well! And, talk about fights! You'll flip your wig over the Hulk's bombshell battle with blustering Boomerang!

SGT. FURY #38: The hard-hitting Howlers blaze into action in the Mediterranean theater, alongside a Japanese-American hero of the famed Nisei regiment. In addition, you'll wanna be on hand to find out the latest scoop on the wounded Dino Manelli!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #7: The fabulous Fantastic Four! The invincible Iron Man! The dynamic Dr. Strange! The incredible Hulk! Never before have so many fans received so much for so little!

FANCY MASTERPIECES #6: Another terrific trio of titanic tales with everybody's Golden-Age favorite, Captain America — plus three fantasy classics!

MARVEL TALES #6: Spidey — Thor — the Human Torch — and the high-flying, heavenly Wasp! All in one mag — the biggest bargain since the Louisiana Purchase!

Let's meet 26 more M.M.M.S. members!

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Brooklyn, N.Y.

Raymond C. Marshall
Mt. Home, Idaho
Bill Home, Idaho
Creve Coeur, Mo.
John Thomas Morgan
Richardson, Tex.
Pete Lalonde
Quebec, Can.

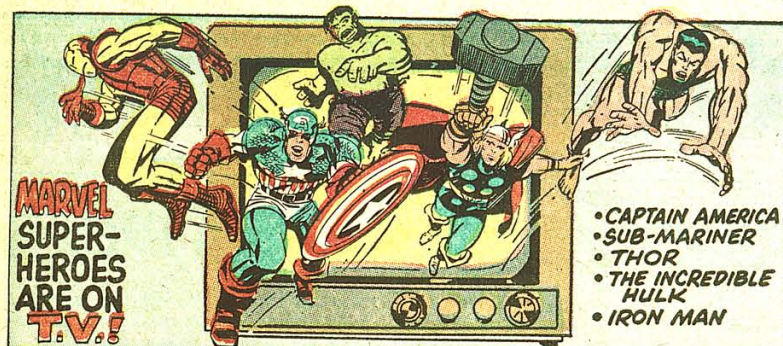
Michael Howard
Chicago, Ill.
Jean Lum
Honolulu, Hawaii
Robert Cordes
Bridgeport, Conn.
Dan Gerber
Baltimore, Md.

Brian Alpin
Napoleone, R. I.
Bob Cretaro
Pekin, Ill.
James Knight
Cretz, Ill.
Howard E. Mott
Plainsboro, N.J.

Keith Knepley
Napoleone, Ohio
Tom Braswell
Wilson, N. C.
J. Krampner
Brooklyn, N.Y.
David La Valle
Fresno, Cal.

Robert Carroll
Canton, Mass.
Peter Hard
Quebec, Can.
Dea Fried
New York, N.Y.
Michael Corbiss
Meach, Iowa

Jackie Gordin
Glenwood, N. C.
Joe Ambrose
Hillard, Okla.
Joseph Mierzwa
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• THE INCREDIBLE HULK
• IRON MAN

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The Spider's Web

Dear Stan and John,

Shakespeare and Plato have "hit the dirt" since I picked up a Marvel mag about six weeks ago. Now I'm addicted. It's especially bad because now that I'm on a diet and can't eat, I compensate by buying Marvel Masterpieces. I'm going broke! As a struggling collegian, I can identify with Spidey who is my absolute favorite, although Daredevil has red hair like myself. Question: In issue #42 you told a guy that Spider-Man wore his duds under his clothes. Very reasonable, but where in the name of Odin did he have them stashed before and after his fight with Flash Thompson in MARVEL TALES #5? Anyway, keep 'em coming! Your work is a great relief in most cases from the contemporary literature being published. The artwork is great, too! Why doesn't the hero or his alter ego ever get the girl?

Eddie Barnett, Kansas State Teachers College (Spon.-Univ. of Kansas), Emporia, Kans.

Aw, you know he gets her sometimes, Ed! Look at ol' Reed Richards, in the FANTASTIC FOUR — he married Sue Storm, didn't he? (Of course, if you ask us to give any other examples, we're dead!) As for where Spidey hid his duds in ish #5 of MARVEL TALES, your guess is as good as ours. That story was done so long ago, that we clean forgot what Petey told us. So, it's no-prize time again! A handsome, web-covered no-prize to the Spidophile sending us the best answer to Eddie's quaintly quizzical query!

Dear Stan and John,

Normally, I just read one of your great mags and then feel good for the rest of the day, but after reading the SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL, I could contain my exultation no longer. This is one of the finest comics I've ever read. First of all, the cover — the finely drawn scene of Spidey dealing the Hulk a monumental blow, while in the background Iron Man zooms up, Goliath stomps menacingly forward, Thor regally advances by way of his enchanted hammer, Captain America races to the battle while the Wasp hovers over his head, and Hawkeye stands ready to release an arrow! Next, the way the left-hand corner trademark balanced the blurb reading "Spidey faces the mighty Avengers and the Incredible Hulk!" And finally, the way the announcements of the other two stories at the bottom helped to offset the banner at the top! Truly, this is more than just a cover — this is a work of art! The inside front cover was well done. The drawings gave an enticing preview into the content of the stories, and helped to prepare the reader for the thrills and action that followed. The characterization of Spider-Man was magnificent. His agonizing uncertainty, his final decision, the great scene where he finally meets the Avengers, the scuffle that follows, the fight with the Hulk, his deep thoughts about whether or not to catch the Hulk, his returning to the Avengers empty-handed, and his final sorrow all showed the character that is Spider-Man as never before. Needless to say, the art was incomparable. Johnny Romita handles Spidey like DaVinci handled the Mona Lisa; and Stan, your scripts are some of the best ever written. I would like to personally thank all of you guys

in the Bullpen for having the spirit and goodwill to put out your comics. May I say that you have nothing to worry about from any of your competitors, for you put out the finest comics that have ever been made.

Glavid Gasser, 1450 Norton Ave.
 Glendale 2, Cal.

Sure, Davy boy — you know it — and we know it — but there must be *someone* we still haven't convinced! Those competitors that you don't want us to worry about are still managing to sell a mag here and there! Actually, for only by our constant striving to stay ahead of the pack can you be certain that we'll never let you down! — And, we hope Brandt Ehlh has the same attitude. The harder we all compete, the more your frantic ones will benefit — and isn't that what really matters?

Dear Stan and John,

SPIDER-MAN #41 was comparatively poor considering the past work you have done. The Rhino is a great villain in all, but you left out one thing — his origin! Your super-duper villain popped out of the Mexican Border! I really got mad when you went and changed poor puny Peter's character and personality. You go and spend forty great issues of Spidey building up Peter as a shy, timid, hard-working student who changes into our hard-working crime-fighter. Then you go and change all this in issue #41! I hope Peter gets run over by his own motorcycle! So much for all that. I was fortunate enough to get a copy of SUPER-HEROES and THOR SPECIAL #2. SUPER-HEROES was colossal. Wow, the art sure has changed since the '40's! How do you reprint a mag from the '40's? Do you have a copy of it or just the plates used in printing them? I can see why Stan is still around writing today after reading his first story. Stan, I really enjoyed your wonderful first story! THOR SPECIAL #2 — What a story, what art! Never has Thor or Odin had such strength or character. I am especially glad to see Stan write such great stories for the annals so they wouldn't be just a bunch of reprints. Long live Marvel!

Dennis Marshall, 55 Warren Dr.
 Portsmouth, Va.

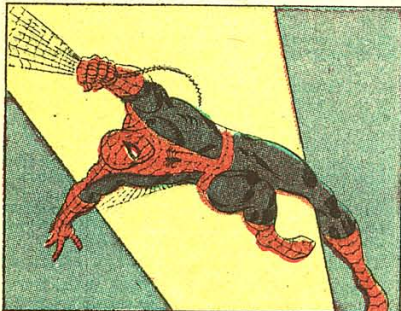
So say we all, Dennis! We appreciate your kind words, tiger, and to answer your question — we manage to scare up an old copy or two of our mags by serounging around our storerooms — and then, when we find them, we photograph the printed pages. But, that's only the beginning! We then have to retouch all the grey tones that appear in the photos and perform about a zillion other technical tasks on the artwork before it can be sent to the printer! (Those who sometimes claim we reprint yards to save money are completely wrong! It would be cheaper and easier to do the job over completely — but we'd feel as though we're cheating you. In our opinion, one of the main features of an older reprint story is the fact that you can enjoy looking at the artwork exactly as it originally appeared! Right?)

Dear Stan and John,

I have chosen to direct my criticism towards SPIDER-MAN #41. The most protuberant fallacy of this issue concerns the sound effects. In most instances the errors were commonplace and insignificant and can be overlooked, but you seem to have developed a monomania about "Stomp." Undoubtedly there are effects other than "Stomp" which could have been used to herald the ponderous Rhino's approach, to evidence his progress. You could have used even the simplest of effects, such as "Clomp" or "Tromp" to break this monotonous continuance, but you monomaniacs persisted in maintaining the same sound effect from the time of the Rhino's debut to the juncture of his defeat. "Stomp" appears for the first time in panel 7 of page 5. It occurs again in panel 2 of page 6. Going on, however, on the same page in the third panel, you have a "Throon" and another "Stomp". In panel 4 it is encountered again, and it also recurs twice in the first panel of page 7. Then, it recedes in panel 8 of page 10, and so on. I counted 15% "Stomp" in all. (In panel 5 of page 12 one of your "Stomps" wasn't completely written out.) The only other severe sound effects inexpediently incorporates a deflection in the dialogue. These occur in panels 2 and 1 on page 12 and 15 respectively. The above said inexpediently consists of your representation of police car sirens. In both instances you use several "E's" to indicate the approach of the minions of the law. "EEEEEE!" What does that sound like, other than a hysterical female? Did the constabulary have a bunch of screaming women sitting on top of the cars? Really, try to be a little more introspective, will you? How about something like "WHIRRRRRRrrr"? You chaps had better get to work on that sort of thing. Well, I hope you will resolve these things, at the same time maintaining your unparalleled standards in the lesser concerns, such as plot and art. After all, it's the little things that count!

Ioland Byer, 50 Riverlawn Dr.
 Fair Haven, N. J.

If you think we're gonna take umbrage at the criticism of a guy who can use a word like "recrudesces" without even blinking, forget it! We'll try to stifle our Stomps from now on. Really, and are grateful to you for taking the time to bring this crucial, earth-shaking matter to our attention! All of Marveldom is in the debt! (And, if the Rhino appears again, we'll see to it that he wears sneakers! How'sat?)



Dear Stan and John,

I have written previous comments to SPIDER-MAN hoping to get them printed, but, alas, all have failed. The only way I could've done it was to have joined the service because I can't write cute little witticisms or use a large vocabulary. So now I'll just tell you the facts about the Web-Spinner's duel with the Rhino. It was magnificent, superb, fabulous, and one of the best fights he's had to date. This is all due to the original plot, the new villain, and to the fact that Spidey didn't actually defeat him. Rhiny just collapsed! I hope he comes back to tangle with Spidey again because he's one of those baddies you love to hate. Boy, has Petey got girl trouble — three of them!

On your letters pages, a fan said that Spidey's troubles are boring. He's got it all wrong! Those troubles are what sets him apart from other super-heroes. It moves the reader to see the difficulties he must overcome in trying to lead an almost normal life. I think he's great just the way he is! So if you two keep writing and drawing the way you do, you'll have a permanent Marvel fan for life — and even longer! Tom Halzack, 766 Huntington R.
 Stratford, Conn. 06497

Thanks, Tommy! But, y'know something? If you fit a way to be a Marvel fan longer than for a lifetime, you'll probably be the next guy we do a story about!

Dear Stan and John,

I have been wondering for a long time — what happens to Spidey's webbing after it's been used???

Tom Brack, 423 Cypress Ave.
 Akron, Ohio

That's an easy one, T. B. — the same thing that happens to real spiders' webs after the spiders' leases are up and they've relocated elsewhere? So what else is new, ol' buddy?

Dear Stan and John,

SPIDER-MAN #42 must be "The Best Comic Book Story of the Year!" I have never read a better story from Marvel or any other brand of comic book. This issue also contained "The Most Original Battle Scene of the Year." I'm referring to Spider-Man catching those bricks with his web and slinging them at the Colonel. Stan, I know it'll be hard to top this issue or even equal it, but please try because once a person gets used to a good thing, it's hard to give it up. When Pete gave up Betty, I was kind of sad. Then Gwen cheered me up. Now I turn to page 20 after reading the most exciting Spidey of them all — imagine how I felt after everything had gotten calmed, for it turns out that the last two panels of this issue were the most exciting panels in the book! Mary Jane Watson is perfect for Pete. Don't let her get mad when Pete has to sneak off and change to Spidey. Make her be understanding. This one is too valuable for Pete to lose. After all the misery he's been through, he deserves some of the good things in life. How about an issue called "A Day with Mary Jane"? After reading such a good issue I can't get interested in your other great books. SPIDER-MAN #42 was great — it's the best book I've ever read in my whole life. This issue makes Stan a thousand times greater than Shakespeare! To tell you the truth, Stan, I always thought you were better than him, anyway. Good luck to the greatest bunch of artists, authors and letterers I've ever known! Gary Novell, 321 George Wright Homes
 Paris, Tex. 75460

Thanks a howlin' heap, Gary — but, just between us, ol' Stan would be mighty proud just to be one-thousandth as good as Shakespeare — who Smiley figures is the greatest there ever was. However, what's this about you not being able to get interested in our other mags? Keep that up, and we'll have to sabotage poor Spidey! After all, we like you too much to allow you to suffer the Brand Ehlbian fate of not tasting the glories and wonderment of the F.F.E., mighty Thor, D.D., and the rest of our glory-studded literary gems! It's not just the last revenues we're worried about, lad — it's our welfare — your literary diet — your peace of mind! We want the best for our frantic ones — and that means the whole, mad, mishmash of Marvel's merry masterworks! (We'd like to say more, but you know how we hate to brag about our mags!)

NEXT ISH: You guessed it! There's another big change coming up in the life of Peter Parker — everybody's favorite fall guy! It looks as though our ubiquitous underdog will finally make the break from his doing Aunt May and go on his own! We've got all sorts of surprises in store for you — you'll see a few old, familiar faces — and perhaps a few dangerously exciting new ones, too! Also, there's a sizzling new supervillain awaiting you, and more titanic thrills than you can shake your webs off! So, wherever you go — whatever you do — be with us for ish #43 — you're the one we did it for! 'Nuff said!

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